

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

Preliminary Resources Inventory

REGIONAL INFLUENCES (Incomplete Draft)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The steep, ocean-facing, redwood studded Santa Cruz Mountains on which Big Basin Redwoods State Park lies have long been a refuge for people living around San Francisco Bay. Second homes, cabins, and retreats of many kinds dot this region, interspersed with large ranches or land currently in timber production. Although Big Basin is the largest, several other state and county parks, the nearby preserve network of the Midpeninsula Open Space District and many other public and private preserves provide recreational facilities that complement those at Big Basin.

Many agencies have regulatory authority over this area. Big Basin itself is split between two county jurisdictions, with its southern portion in Santa Cruz County, and the northern in San Mateo County. The park draws a significant part of its visitation from nearby Santa Clara County (the San Jose area). Big Basin is within the coastal zone and under the jurisdiction of two local coastal programs. Several major roads, both state and county, provide access. The park also spans areas regulated by various air and water quality boards and regional planning agencies.

Many important recreational corridors link the park with other nearby parks and preserves, as well as providing connections to major trails serving the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

A number of private entities are actively acquiring property in the area around Big Basin with the intent of preserving it in perpetuity as open space, adding to the already significant areas either held by private sources or in the process of being turned over to the state or a county to preserve. Due to the influx of suburban development in the Half Moon Bay area, San Mateo County is also stepping up its efforts to maintain its coastal lands in open space.

For the purposes of the general plan, this inventory will focus on a region around Big Basin roughly defined as the area containing Butano, Portola, Castle Rock state parks, Ano Nuevo State Reserve and State Park, and touching the northern boundary of Henry Cowell State Park. It will also take in major circulation routes from areas providing significant visitation to the park and connections to other recreational destinations.

2. RELATED LAND USES, REGULATIONS, AND SERVICES

A. Adjacent Land Uses and Ownership Patterns

The ownership pattern around Big Basin generally consists of relatively large or very small parcels of land. Lying between ownerships of several hundred acres are subdivided areas with small lots that either contain homes and cabins or are still undeveloped “paper subdivisions.” Most of the area between the state parks ringing Big Basin is not developed. Significant land is owned by timber companies which, to date, have been using selective cutting methods. Major ownerships adjacent or near to the park include:

- Forested lands along northern border, owned by “Redtree” (trail easement crosses to Pescadero Creek County Park and Portola State Park)
- Redwood Empire forested lands along the northern border
- Properties of the Boy Scouts of America
- Sempervirens Fund currently purchasing 1,300 acres to add to Castle Rock State Park
- private forested lands between China Grade and Highway 9
- 550-acre parcel owned by Holmes would create larger common boundary with Ano Nuevo State Park
- Cowell Foundation forested lands
- Small inholdings in the Whitehouse Canyon area
- Camp Hammer Conference Grounds adjacent to the park near Boulder Creek
- other conference facilities
- a golf course
- a YMCA camp
- religious or spiritually oriented retreats, such as Mt. Herman Buddhist Monastery
- secular retreats owned by corporations
- “ropes” courses, like the Kenneolya Center on Glen Haven Road in Soquel
- Big Creek Timber Co. land southeast of park center area, next to Waddell Creek; also large parcels adjacent to the park
- Mormon Church property southeast of park center area
- Lockheed property southeast of park center area
- Hewlett-Packard property near Highway 236
- ~40 small parcels near Boulder Creek
- Swanton Ranch in the Scott Creek drainage – Cal Poly, SLO)
- Coast Dairies land, held by TPL
- Greyhound Rock (CDFG)

(Note: Additional information, including graphics, will be available as it arrives from the various sources supplying it.)

B. Regulatory Influences

Santa Cruz County General Plan

Most of Big Basin is within Santa Cruz County, although the county line passes through the park, and some of its northern reaches are in San Mateo County.

- History: Santa Cruz County has been engaging in comprehensive general planning since the 1950s. It has carried forward the concept that the Santa Cruz Mountains area be designated for commercial recreation and also “set aside as ‘conserved’ areas to be afforded full protection from any uses that would harm their natural character.” The prominent concerns outlined in the county’s 1980 general plan continue to be primary areas of concern as the county approaches what it terms “buildout.” Whether or not this refers to maximum buildout is not clear at this time. Their chief concerns are: 1. Providing adequate services, particularly

water, 2. Providing affordable housing, 3. Preserving the County's environmental quality, and 4. Preventing conversions of agricultural lands.

- Land Use Policies:

San Mateo County General Plan

Santa Clara County General Plan

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

ABAG is owned and operated by the cities and counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. It was established in 1961 to protect local control, plan for the future, and promote cooperation on areawide issues. In ABAG's region there are 100 cities and the nine counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. More than 6 million people live in this 7,000 square mile area. Where will they live, where will they work, will transportation be adequate? How can we control air and water pollution, will water supplies be sufficient? Are we prepared for a major natural disaster? These are the kinds of questions that cannot be addressed easily without cooperative action among many agencies, organizations, and the general public. One of ABAG's vital functions is to provide a forum to resolve local differences through workable compromises. Its active public information program encourages citizen involvement in planning and policy decisions.

Through its role as an association of cities and counties, ABAG has been designated by the state and federal governments as the official comprehensive planning agency for the Bay Area. Its locally adopted Regional Plan provides a policy guide for planning the region's housing, economic development, environmental quality, transportation, recreation, and health and safety. The association also sponsors workshops and conferences where local officials, business and industry leaders, special interest groups, and private citizens can discuss programs, regulations, and legislation affecting their communities.

Useful ABAG publications cover demographics, maps transportation, air and water quality, Silicon Valley projections, Bay Area futures, earthquake information, smart growth, the Bay Trail, and land-use planning.

Association of Monterey Bay area Governments (AMBAG)

The Association of Monterey Bay area Governments (AMBAG) is “a forum for planning, discussion and study of regional problems of mutual interest and concern to the counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties; and for the development of studies, plans, policy and action recommendations.” Useful AMBAG studies and reports cover demographics, GIS, transportation, air and water quality, and land-use planning.

California Coastal Commission, Central Coast District

The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20) and made permanent by the Legislature in 1976 (the Coastal Act). The primary mission of the Commission, as the lead agency responsible for carrying out California's federally approved coastal management program, is to plan for and regulate land and water uses in the coastal zone consistent with the policies of the Coastal Act.

The Commission is one of California's two designated coastal management agencies for the purpose of administering the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in California. The most significant provisions of the federal CZMA give state coastal management agencies regulatory control (federal consistency review authority) over all federal activities and federally licensed, permitted or assisted activities, wherever they may occur (i.e., landward or seaward of the respective coastal zone boundaries fixed under state law) if the activity affects coastal resources. Examples of such federal activities include: outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing, exploration and development; designation of dredge material disposal sites in the ocean; military projects at coastal locations; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fill permits; certain U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permits; national park projects; highway improvement projects assisted with federal funds; and commercial space launch projects on federal lands. Federal consistency is an extremely important coastal management tool because it is often the only review authority over federal activities affecting coastal resources given to any state agency. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has this authority within San Francisco Bay while the Coastal Commission exercises this authority relative to the rest of California's coastal zone.

Commission jurisdiction in the coastal zone (which is specifically mapped) is broad and applies to all private and public entities and covers virtually all manner of development activities, including any division of land, a change in the intensity of use of state waters and of public access to them. The Coastal Act includes specific policies (see Division 20 of the Public Resources Code) relating to public access and recreation, lower cost visitor accommodations, terrestrial and marine habitat protection, visual resources, landform alteration, agricultural lands, commercial fisheries, industrial uses, water quality, offshore oil and gas development, transportation, development design, power plants, ports, universities and public works. These policies constitute the statutory standards applied to planning and regulatory decisions pursuant to the Coastal Act.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Big Basin Redwoods State Park lies almost entirely within the jurisdiction the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as the Big Basin Hydrologic Unit. This unit covers 226,240 acres. A small section of the northern part of the park lies within the Pescadero Creek watershed which falls under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board falls within the oversight of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB was created by the Legislature in 1967. The mission of the SWRCB is to ensure the highest reasonable quality of waters of the state,

while allocating those waters to achieve the optimum balance of beneficial uses. The joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the SWRCB to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The mission of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans which will best protect the beneficial uses of the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District—the state's first regional agency dealing with air pollution—was created by the California Legislature in 1955. The District's jurisdiction encompasses all of seven counties—Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Napa, and portions of two others—southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma. The District uses a progressive approach to regulating air pollution. By adopting reasonable air quality plans and then following through with sensible regulations (sensitive to the socio-economic impacts), flexible permitting, helpful compliance assistance, and proactive enforcement, the District has one of the most responsive air programs in the nation.

Air Pollutants regulated by the District include:

- Particulate Matter
- Organic Compounds
- Nitrogen Oxides
- Sulfur Dioxide/Oxides
- Carbon Monoxide
- Hydrogen Sulfide
- Photochemical Smog (Ground Level Ozone)
- Acid Deposition

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

The Mission of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District is to protect the public health while balancing economic and air quality considerations. The air district in this region was created by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in 1965. Three years later, Santa Cruz County joined Monterey County to form a two-county unified district. In 1969, the state designated the three counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz as the North Central Coast Air Basin, a single region sharing the same air pollution problems. A year later, the federal Clean Air Act formalized the responsibility of state and local governments to manage air quality in their regions. On July 1, 1974 Monterey and Santa Cruz County Unified Air Pollution Control District merged with the San Benito County Air Pollution Control District to form the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (hereinafter, the District).

As required by the California Clean Air Act and Amendments (HSC Section 40910 et seq.) and the Federal Clean Air Act and Amendments (42 U.S.C. Section 7401 et seq.) the District is responsible for air monitoring, permitting, enforcement, long-range air quality planning, regulatory development, education and public information activities related to air pollution. California Health and Safety Code Sections 39002, et seq. and 40000, et seq. require local districts to be the primary enforcement mechanism for air pollution control. Districts must have

rules and regulations for the implementation and enforcement for the attainment and maintenance of federal and state ambient air standards.

C. Feeder Transportation

(The following information applies to the majority of the park area. The northern part of the park is administered by the Bay Area District. RDO is run out of a separate sector and requires additional staff contacts to determine levels and sources of services.)

Roads

Several state highways serve the area around Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Some are large and built to carry heavy traffic loads swiftly to their destinations. Others are two-lane roads, providing circulation for the residents of the Santa Cruz Mountains area and also alternative routes for people wishing a more intimate and leisurely experience. These are:

- Highway 1, the coast highway, which gives access to people desiring the ambiance of the ocean shore and who are not in a particular hurry;
- Highway 17, the main link between Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz, heavily traveled by both commuter and tourist traffic;
- Highway 35, or Skyline Boulevard, astride the spine of the West Bay hills affording views of the beautiful reservoirs in the straight valley riding the San Andreas Fault, of the oak, bay, and grassland mosaic that makes up much of the coastal vegetation, and occasional glimpses of the mighty metropolis sprawled around San Francisco Bay;
- Highway 280, a freeway paralleling the Skyline lower down the slopes to the west, which speeds motorists between San Francisco and the western Santa Clara Valley;
- Highways 9 and 84, curvy two-lane mountain roads that require a relatively slow speed and bring motorists up close to the forests, grasslands, and unique dwellings that are the essence of the Santa Cruz Mountains; and
- Highway 236, the gateway to Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

In addition, numerous county roads wind over the slopes around the park and occasionally pass through the park. Those that are important to the park are:

- _____
- _____
- Lodge Road: This road crosses into the park north of the headquarters area. At times when such events as mudslides or fallen trees block other routes in or, especially, out of the park, this road can be the only way for visitors and staff to exit the park. Park staff are concerned

that Santa Cruz County has discontinued maintaining the road for several years so that its condition has deteriorated. They would like to see the county begin to maintain the road again, as it can be dangerous and is important for park circulation.

(Traffic Count information to be inserted here)

Buses

There has not been bus service to the park for a number (~10) years. The closest bus stop is the Country Club in Boulder Creek, where service is provided by Santa Cruz County Transit. Occasionally, special group tour busses will bring visitors to the park, but this is a special service arranged on a case-by-case basis. Bus service used to be popular with people using trails passing through the park, especially the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, as it allowed them to use the trail without having to bring a car for transportation at both ends.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is updating its Regional Transportation Plan, a long-term plan for improving the county's transportation system over the coming 20 years.

D. Utilities

Water

All water used in the park is produced within park boundaries from park wells.

Wastewater

Approximately 95% of the wastewater produced in the park is treated and returned to park streams. The small portion that escapes drains into the Waddel Creek watershed.

Electricity

Pacific Gas and Electric Company provides electricity to the park. Electricity moves through the park on lines that are carried on telephone poles. Staff sources state that it would not be feasible to put the lines underground because of the damage this would cause to tree roots.

Gas

Propane tanks provide all the gas that is necessary within the park.

Phone

Pacific Bell provides telephone service within the park. Its lines use the same poles that carry the park's electricity

E. Adjacent Emergency Services

Fire Response

Fire response at Big Basin is by the California Department of Forestry and the Boulder Creek Fire Department.

Law Enforcement

The park cooperates with the California Highway Patrol and the San Mateo County Sheriff's office. Park staff will assist with enforcement outside of the park; however, the sheriffs will not come into the park.

Ambulance

Ambulance service in the park comes out of Santa Cruz. There is only one ambulance company at this time.

Emergencies

FEMA has dealt with emergencies within the park, ranging from road washouts to true disasters.

For dispatching response for emergencies, the park uses the Department's dispatch center out of Monterey.

F. Adjacent Concessions and Visitor Services

Visitor Services

Although a wide variety of visitor services are available in nearby communities, from lodging to golf courses, to restaurants, park staff report that park visitors mostly don't relate to the towns around the park. They tend to use the park concession, which is open all year (though only on the weekends during the winter) and reflects the fact that the mild climate of the Santa Cruz Mountains area encourages park visitation year-round.

4. RECREATION DEMAND AND PREFERENCES

A. Demographic Influences

Both the populations of the state and of the recreational participation of that population are growing, according to a recent study. The sixth in a series of surveys of 2,000 representative families throughout the country during the summer of 1999 by The Recreation Roundtable showed that the trend for all segments of the population during the 1990s was to engage in some outdoor recreation more often. (*Roper-Starch, Outdoor Recreation in America: The Family and the Environment*) Involvement in activities popular at Big Basin Redwoods State Park, particularly campground camping and picnicking, grew in popularity as the decade drew to a close.

The survey also indicated that the greater a family's income, the greater its likelihood to participate in outdoor recreation. The San Francisco Bay Area has the highest average household income in California. (*ABAG, citing Department of Finance statistics*) Two of the counties nearest Big Basin Redwoods State Park, San Mateo and Santa Clara, have the third and fourth highest median incomes in the state, behind Contra Costa (first) and Marin (second) counties. The majority of the park's visitation comes from Santa Clara County, owing to that county's large and affluent population and direct and easy transportation routes to the park.

During the decade, 1990 - 2000, the populations of the three counties closest to Big Basin Redwoods State Park grew at a rate slower than that of California as a whole, which increased 13.6%. San Mateo County's population increased by 8.9%; Santa Cruz County's by 11.3%; and Santa Clara County's by 12.4%. (*U.S. Census Bureau*) However, during the same period, the growth of incorporated towns nearest the park was expected to be considerable. (*AMBAG 1997 projections – updated 1/99*) Santa Cruz was expected to grow to over 55,000 residents by 2000 (an increase of 12.2%), and Scotts Valley to more than 11,000 (30.2%). By 2020, Santa Cruz was expected to grow another 17% and Scotts Valley another 39%.

How much of this population change will get translated into actual park visitation will depend upon factors that cannot now be measured. Continued economic growth and a sustained belief in the importance of the outdoors and the environment to the populations of the state, the Bay Area, and the region around the park will be of major importance.

B. Existing Recreational Facilities and Use Patterns in the Santa Cruz Mountains in the Vicinity of Big Basin Redwoods State Park

A variety of recreational experiences are available within a ten-mile radius of Big Basin State Park from a diversity of providers, both public and private. See the attached chart, Publicly-owned Recreational Facilities in the Vicinity of the Park, for a listing of recreational facilities and activities offered by state and local agencies. It is briefly summarized in the following sections.

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

State Parks

Six state parks are relatively near to Big Basin. Butano, Portola, and Henry Cowell state parks are well established and have camping and picnic facilities. Ano Nuevo State Reserve is on the coast west of Big Basin and focuses on interpretation of the elephant seal herd that uses the beach there. Ano Nuevo State Park is a new unit of the State Park System, not yet developed for public use, that touches Big Basin's western edge. Castle Rock State Park, on the ridge above Big Basin, is practically undeveloped except for trails and a primitive backpacking camp.

Butano, Portola, and Henry Cowell all contain redwood forest. Because of this, they complement Big Basin, helping to fulfill the widespread desire of the public to see, learn about, and appreciate redwood trees close up, as well as providing accommodations and interpretation.

Trails link Big Basin with Portola and Castle Rock, as well as other parks and preserves through those parks.

County Parks

Big Basin Redwoods State Park lies primarily in Santa Cruz County, though a small portion of its northern side reaches into San Mateo County. Santa Clara County extends to the nearby ridge to the east. All three counties have parks near Big Basin (see chart).

Santa Cruz County's nearby parks are the smallest and most locally oriented of the county parks around Big Basin, mainly emphasizing formal recreational facilities, such as playgrounds. The exception is Quail Hollow Ranch, which provides trails and interpretation.

The three San Mateo County parks near Big Basin are relatively large and offer camping, interpretive, and trail opportunities on a scale similar to some of the nearby state parks.

The three Santa Clara County parks shown on the chart afford a variety of experiences. One has camping, hiking and interpretive experiences similar to those in the San Mateo County parks. One offers hiking and biking trails and a "wilderness" experience. The third focuses

on activities similar to a more urban day use park: picnicking, trails for hikers, bikers, and equestrians, boating, fishing, and archery.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The MROSD was first created in 1972 to preserve open space along the spine of the coastal range running the length of the San Francisco Peninsula and on the line separating Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. The purpose of the preserves was both to protect views toward the mountains as seen from the communities that have grown up on the shore of San Francisco Bay and to preserve the inherent open space qualities of the mountains and make them available to the public for enjoyment and education. Its 23 open space preserves now total over 40,000 acres and occupy land within San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties.

The primary facilities in the preserves are trails for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Some are loops, while some give access to destinations within the preserves. Others are parts of trail networks that connect to other preserves or nearby parks. Generally, trailheads and support facilities are located on land in other ownership. However, some of the preserves encourage a variety of public uses (see chart below). Interpretation through self-guided experiences and docent-led tours are also priorities of the District.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK RESOURCES INVENTORY
Publicly-owned Recreational Facilities
in the Vicinity of the Park

NAME OF FACILITY	CAMPSITES	PICNIC SITES	TRAILS	OTHER(S)	COMMENTS
STATE PARKS					
Ano Nuevo SR					Guided interpretive walks to view the seals
Ano Nuevo SP					New unit
Butano SP	21 drive-in; 18 walk-in		Hiking		Guided nature walk and weekend campfire programs offered during the summer.
Portola SP	38 tent sp., 9 tent/RV		18 miles		
Castle Rock SP	Primitive for backpackers only		32 miles: hiking, riding	Rock climbing	
H. Cowell RSP	110 camp-sites	One picnic area	20 miles: hiking, riding	Nature center; nature trail	The Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad is in the park
COUNTY PARKS San Mateo Co.					
Pescadero Creek	Primitive walk-in camps only		Extensive system, some loops; for hikers & equestrians	Biking on designated service roads only; Significant plant and wildlife resources	Trail connections to Sam McDonald, Memorial and Portola parks, approx. 26 miles
Memorial Park	156 camp-sites; 6 youth group areas; 2 group camps (75 people each)	4 reservable picnic areas (50-300 people)	8 miles hiking and interpretive	Campfire center	Emphasis on interpretation: walks, programs
Sam McDonald	3 youth group camps - also horse camp for individuals or		"Several" miles for hikers, joggers, and equestrians	Biking on designated service roads only	Trail connections to Memorial and Pescadero Creek parks; park has volunteer program

	groups				
COUNTY PARKS Santa Cruz Co.					
Ben Lomond Park				1-acre neighborhood park; historic dam	Dance “slab,” basketball court, playground
Felton Covered Br.		Picnic sites		32 parking spaces	Volleyball court, playgrounds, lawn, fishing
Quail Hollow Ranch			“Numerous” trails	Gravel lot accommodating 50 cars	Emphasis on interpretation of natural resources; docent-led walks, nature programs available (also has historic ranch house, pond – no fishing)
COUNTY PARKS Santa Clara Co.					
Sanborn Skyline	RV and walk-in sites	40-acre picnic area; 3 group areas	15+ miles of hiking trails incl. 1-mi. nature trail		Emphasis on nature study, interpretation, ranger-led walks
Upper Stevens Cr.			Hiking, mt. Bike trails	“Wilderness” experience	
Stevens Creek		6 picnic areas, 3 group areas	Hiking, mt. biking, horseback riding	Small lake – boating, fishing	Archery, birding. Adjacent to Mid-Pen preserve (Fremont-Older)
MID-PEN OPEN SPACE					
Russian Ridge			8 mi. trails	Open glasslands, wildflowers, wildlife (raptors); views	Connections to: Bay Area Ridge Trail to Skyline Ridge OSP.
Coal Creek			5 mi. trails; hiking, biking, equestrian	Forested areas, seasonal waterfalls	Connections to Skyline Blvd., Russian Ridge, and Portola Valley. Trail loops.
Los Trancos			5 mi. trails; 1.5-mi San Andreas Fault Trail	Grasslands, brushlands, forested areas; views	Self-guided geology interpretation along the Fault Trail.
Skyline Ridge		Several tables at the	~2 mi. of accessible	Meadows; pond with pier for nature study;	Nature center being developed; docent-led tours

		lake overlook	trails near the lake	lake; chaparral; ridgetop views	
Monte Bello Ridge	Backpack walk-in camp; 6 sites		~15 mi. trail system for hikers, bikers	Grasslands, creekside forests; vistas; rich wildlife area	
Long Ridge			12 mi. trails	Grasslands and oak, madrone and Douglas fir forests; great views.	Many connections, possibilities for loops. Con- nects to Upper Stevens Cr. and Saratoga Gap; also 3-mi segment of Bay Area Ridge Trail; hiking trail to Portola SP
Saratoga Gap				Largely Douglas fir forest	Many trail connections: Sanborn-Skyline County Park, Castle Rock SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, Upper Stevens Cr. County Park, Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, Saratoga Gap-Page Mill Rd trail, 9-mi. loop through Long Ridge.
Fremont Older			~9 mi. hiking, biking, and equestrian trails	Open grasslands, brushy hillsides; historic residence; vistas	
El Sereno			4 mi. hiking, biking & equestrian trails	Chaparral	Somewhat southeast of our main area of interest

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Santa Cruz Mountains are a mostly natural setting just over a prominent ridge from a great metropolitan area, home to many well educated and affluent people. This population supports a large number of retreats and conference centers in the region surrounding Big Basin State Park, mostly in the Boulder Creek-Felton area. Some of these are religious, both Western religions and Eastern; others are run by organizations such as the Salvation Army.

Other privately-owned overnight facilities help supplement the camping afforded by the state and county parks in this area. (See the chart below showing Privately-owned Overnight Facilities in the vicinity of the park.) The Felton-Boulder Creek area has a number of campgrounds, two of which serve RVs. In addition, several motels, lodges, bed and breakfasts, and the Sempervirens Fund environmental education facility for children are located near the park.

The park is also close to services in nearby communities, including restaurants and stores. In addition, a variety of amenities are available in the vicinity. These include golf courses, horseback riding, stock car racing, fishing, the Felton Farmers' Market, vineyards, theaters and playhouses, galleries, and museums. (*The Santa Cruz County Traveler's Guide, published by the Santa Cruz County Conference and Visitors Council*)

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK RESOURCES INVENTORY
Privately-owned Overnight Facilities
in the Vicinity of the Park

GROUP/ ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	KIND OF FACILITY
Camp Hammer	21401 Big Basin Hwy., Boulder Creek, CA 95066-9097	Group Retreats/lodging (Twin Lakes Church owns; open for Christian groups)
Camp Harmond	16403 Hwy. 9, Boulder Creek, CA 95006	Retreats/Lodging
Mission Springs Conference Center	1050 Lockhart Gulch Rd. Scotts Valley CA 95066	Retreats/Lodging
Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center	PO Box 413, Mount Hermon CA 95041	Retreats/Lodging
Mount Cross Lutheran Camp	PO Box 387 Felton, CA 95018	Retreats/Lodging
Pema Osel Ling Retreat Center	2013 Eureka Canyon Rd., Corralito CA 95076	Retreats/Lodging
Quaker Center	PO Box 686, Ben Loman CA 95005	Retreats/Lodging
Redwood Christian Park	15000 Two Bar Road, Boulder Creek CA 95006	Retreats/Lodging
Redwood Glen Camp and Conference Center	3100 Bean Creek Rd., Scotts Valley CA 95066	Retreats/Lodging (Salvation Army; open to public; no alcohol) 205 acres; 300 people sleeping
Taungpulu Monastery	18335 Big Basin Hwy Boulder Creek CA 95006	Retreat/Lodging
Vajrapani Institute	PO Box 213 Boulder Creek CA 95006	Retreats/Lodging
YMCA of the Redwoods, Camp Campbell	16275 Hwy. 9 Boulder Creek CA 95006	Retreats/Lodging
Cotillion Gardens RV Park	300 Old Big Trees Road Felton CA 95018	Campground
Redwood Resort	150 East Grove, Boulder Creek CA 95006	Campground
River Grove Park	4980 Highway 9 Felton CA 95018	Campground
Smithwoods RV Park	PO Box 27 Felton CA 95018	Campground

Sempervirens Outdoor School	20161 Big Basin Hwy. Boulder Creek, CA 95066	Environmental education for Bay Area Sixth Graders
Best Western Inn	Scotts Valley	Motel
Econo Lodge	Ben Lomond	Motel
Fern River Resort Motel	Felton	Motel
The Inn at Scotts Valley	Scotts Valley	Motel
Jaye's Timberlane Resort	Ben Lomond	Motel
Merrybrook Lodge	Boulder Creek	Motel
Davenport Bed and Breakfast Inn	Davenport	Bed and Breakfast
Fairview Manor Bed and Breakfast Inn	Ben Lomond	Bed and Breakfast
Boulder Creek Lodge and Conference Center	Boulder Creek	Lodge and Conference Center

C. Scenic Resources (to be inserted here)